

Philadelphia

City of the Faithful Church



- Modern city of Alah-Shehir in Turkey.
- Location:
 - A city of Lydia lying at the base of Mount Tmolus
 - Located:
 - 26 miles southeast of Sardis.
 - 105 miles east of Smyrna.
 - Located on the banks of the Cogamus River.
 - Located on the main military highway that led from Rome to the east. The road left the coast at Troas, came to Philadelphia via Pergamos, Thyatira, and Sardis and joined the great road to Phrygia.
- Description:
 - Was built on five hills.
 - The city had an elevation of some 972 ft. above sea level.
 - Fertile soil.
- Brief history:
 - Founded in about 189 B.C.
 - The district came into possession of the Pergamenian king Eumenes at the treaty of 189 B.C.
 - The city was probably built by Attalus as a mart for the wine produced in the region.
 - The grapes were grown in a fertile valley about 58 miles long x 46 miles wide (500 stadia long and 400 stadia wide).
Alexandrian stadia" — 1 stadia = 184.9 meters
= 606.6 feet.
 - The city was founded and named Philadelphia by Attalus H (159-138 B.C.).
 - The city was called Philadelphia, "the city of brotherly love" by

King Attalus because of his devotion to his brother Eumenes.

- Attalus' "royal nickname" was Philadelphus.
- Philadelphia came under Roman rule in 133 B.C.
- Philadelphia was destroyed by the great earthquake in 17 A.D. but was later rebuilt.
- The city of Philadelphia has had many names.
 - Neokaisareia — "New Caesar" (17-50 A.D.) because Emperor Tiberias helped rebuild the city after the 17 A.D. earthquake.
 - "Flavia" during Vespasian's reign (70-79 A.D.)
 - Dubbed "Little Athens" in the fifth century due to the many temples and festivals held there.
 - Alah-Sheir— "city of God" (1392 A.D. to the present).
- 2,000 Jewish families lived on the border and nearby in Phrygia.

■ Political status in New Testament times:

- Under Roman rule.
- Did not have courts of law of its own, but came under the jurisdiction of which Sardis was the center.

■ Architecture:

- Little archaeological evidence of the architecture of ancient Philadelphia.
- Part of the ancient wall is still visible.
- From images on coins it appears to have had temples to:
 - Artemis Anaitis (the Persian Anahita)
 - Artemis Ephesis
 - Helios
 - Dionysus
 - Zeus
 - Aphrodite

■ Religion:

- The chief deity was Bacchus (Dionysus) god of wine.

■ The Church at Philadelphia.

- Is mentioned only in:
 - **Revelation 1:11**
 - **Revelation 3:7-13**

■ The letter to the Church at Philadelphia — **Revelation 3:7-13**

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

8 'I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie -- indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

■ NOTE: The Lord has no words of condemnation for Philadelphia.

